

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.(Currently amended) A method for obtaining an item, comprising:
providing an indication of two or more different desired items, only one of which is to be obtained;

identifying a plurality of auctions in which ~~an~~ the two or more different desired items ~~are~~ is being auctioned; and

automatically submitting, using a processor, one or more bids to a plurality of the plurality of auctions in order to obtain one of the two desired items.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of automatically submitting one or more bids comprises:

identifying one of the plurality of the plurality of auctions having a lowest next bid price for the item,

wherein a next bid price in a particular auction for a particular item is based on a sum of a current bid price for the particular item in the particular auction and a minimum bidding increment associated with the particular auction.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of automatically submitting one or more bids further comprises:

determining whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is not greater than the maximum bid price,

submitting to the one auction a bid for the item, the bid being based on the lowest next bid price.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of automatically submitting one or more bids further comprises:

determining whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price,

presenting an indication that the lowest next bid price is greater than the maximum bid price and determining another maximum bid price greater than the lowest next bid price.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of automatically submitting one or more bids further comprises:

determining that a submitted bid has been surpassed; and

automatically submitting another bid to at least one of the plurality of the plurality of auctions in order to obtain the item.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the step of automatically submitting another bid comprises:

identifying one of the plurality of the plurality of auctions having a lowest next bid price for the item,

wherein a next bid price in a particular auction for a particular item is based on a sum of a current bid price for the particular item in the particular auction and a minimum bidding increment associated with the particular auction.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the step of automatically submitting another bid further comprises:

determining whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is not greater than the maximum bid price,

submitting to the one auction a bid for the item, the bid being based on the lowest next bid price.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the step of automatically submitting another bid further comprises:

determining whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price,

presenting an indication that the lowest next bid price is greater than the maximum bid price and determining another maximum bid price greater than the lowest next bid price.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
withdrawing a previously-submitted bid.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
determining that the bid price of the previously-submitted bid is greater than a sum of a next bid price of one of the plurality of auctions and a cost to withdraw the previously-submitted bid.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of automatically submitting one or more bids comprises:

analyzing at least one of group bidding history and individual bidding history.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of automatically submitting one or more bids comprises:

analyzing at least one of a bidding history for an item similar to the item, a bidding history for items complementary to the item, and a bidding history for items substitutable for the item.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the maximum bid price is based on market factors.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of automatically submitting one or more bids to a plurality of the plurality of auctions comprises:

automatically submitting one or more bids to a plurality of the plurality of auctions in order to obtain more than one unit of the item.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a processor; and
a storage device in communication with said processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

provide an indication of two or more different desired items, only one of which is to be obtained;

identify a plurality of auctions in which ~~an~~ the two or more different desired items are-is being auctioned; and

automatically submit one or more bids to a plurality of the plurality of auctions in order to obtain one of the two different desired items.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit one or more bids further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

identify one of the plurality of the plurality of auctions having a lowest next bid price for the item,

wherein a next bid price in a particular auction for a particular item is based on a sum of a current bid price for the particular item in the particular auction and a minimum bidding increment associated with the particular auction.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit one or more bids further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

determine whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is not greater than the maximum bid price,

submit to the one auction a bid for the item, the bid being based on the lowest next bid price.

20. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit one or more bids further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

determine whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price,

present an indication that the lowest next bid price is greater than the maximum bid price and determining another maximum bid price greater than the lowest next bid price.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit one or more bids further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

determine that a submitted bid has been surpassed; and
automatically submit another bid to at least one of the plurality of the plurality of auctions in order to obtain the item.

22. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit another bid further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

identify one of the plurality of the plurality of auctions having a lowest next bid price for the item,

wherein a next bid price in a particular auction for a particular item is based on a sum of a current bid price for the particular item in the particular auction and a minimum bidding increment associated with the particular auction.

23. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit another bid further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

determine whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is not greater than the maximum bid price,

submit to the one auction a bid for the item, the bid being based on the lowest next bid price.

24. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit another bid further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

determine whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price,

present an indication that the lowest next bid price is greater than the maximum bid price and determining another maximum bid price greater than the lowest next bid price.

25. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to withdraw a previously-submitted bid.

26. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to withdraw a previously-submitted bid further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

determine that the bid price of the previously-submitted bid is greater than a sum of a next bid price of one of the plurality of auctions and a cost to withdraw the previously-submitted bid.

27. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit

one or more bids further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

analyze at least one of group bidding history and individual bidding history.

28. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit one or more bids further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

analyze at least one of a bidding history for an item similar to the item, a bidding history for items complementary to the item, and a bidding history for items substitutable for the item.

29. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the maximum bid price is based on market factors.

30. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the stored instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to automatically submit one or more bids further comprise instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

automatically submit one or more bids to a plurality of the plurality of auctions in order to obtain more than one unit of the item.

31.(Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A medium storing processor-executable process steps, the process steps comprising:

a step to provide an indication of two or more different desired items, only one of which is to be obtained;

a step to identify a plurality of auctions in which ~~an~~ the two or more different desired items are is being auctioned; and

a step to automatically submit one or more bids to a plurality of the plurality of auctions in order to obtain one of the two or more different desired items.

34. (Original) A medium according to Claim 33, wherein the step to automatically submit one or more bids comprises:

a step to identify one of the plurality of the plurality of auctions having a lowest next bid price for the item,

wherein a next bid price in a particular auction for a particular item is based on a sum of a current bid price for the particular item in the particular auction and a minimum bidding increment associated with the particular auction.

35. (Original) A medium according to Claim 34, wherein the step to automatically submit one or more bids further comprises:

a step to determine whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is not greater than the maximum bid price,

a step to submit to the one auction a bid for the item, the bid being based on the lowest next bid price.

36. (Original) A medium according to Claim 34, wherein the step to automatically submit one or more bids further comprises:

a step to determine whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price,

a step to present an indication that the lowest next bid price is greater than the maximum bid price and determining another maximum bid price greater than the lowest next bid price.

37. (Original) A medium according to Claim 33, wherein the step to automatically submit one or more bids further comprises:

a step to determine that a submitted bid has been surpassed; and

a step to automatically submit another bid to at least one of the plurality of the plurality of auctions in order to obtain the item.

38. (Original) A medium according to Claim 37, wherein the step to automatically submit another bid comprises:

a step to identify one of the plurality of the plurality of auctions having a lowest next bid price for the item,

wherein a next bid price in a particular auction for a particular item is based on a sum of a current bid price for the particular item in the particular auction and a minimum bidding increment associated with the particular auction.

39. (Original) A medium according to Claim 38, wherein the step to automatically submit another bid further comprises:

a step to determine whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is not greater than the maximum bid price,

a step to submit to the one auction a bid for the item, the bid being based on the lowest next bid price.

40. (Original) A medium according to Claim 38, wherein the step to automatically submit another bid further comprises:

a step to determine whether the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price; and, if it is determined that the lowest next bid price is greater than a maximum bid price,

a step to present an indication that the lowest next bid price is greater than the maximum bid price and to determine another maximum bid price greater than the lowest next bid price.

41. (Original) A medium according to Claim 33, the process steps further comprising:

a step to withdraw a previously-submitted bid.

42. (Original) A medium according to Claim 41, the process steps further comprising:

a step to determine that the bid price of the previously-submitted bid is greater than a sum of a next bid price of one of the plurality of auctions and a cost to withdraw the previously-submitted bid.

43. (Original) A medium according to Claim 33, wherein the step to automatically submit one or more bids comprises:

a step to analyze at least one of group bidding history and individual bidding history.

44. (Original) A medium according to Claim 33, wherein the step to automatically submit one or more bids comprises:

a step to analyze at least one of a bidding history for an item similar to the item, a bidding history for items complementary to the item, and a bidding history for items substitutable for the item.

45. (Original) A medium according to Claim 35, wherein the maximum bid price is based on market factors.

46. (Original) A medium according to Claim 33, wherein the step to automatically submit one or more bids to a plurality of the plurality of auctions comprises:

a step to automatically submit one or more bids to a plurality of the plurality of auctions in order to obtain more than one unit of the item.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)